

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:

a narrowband network switch, said narrowband network switch including ~~switching intelligence and narrowband switching fabric~~ call control functionality and narrowband connection control functionality;

a broadband network switch in communication with the narrowband network switch, said broadband network switch including only ~~broadband switching fabric~~ broadband connection control functionality;

wherein, the call control functionality in the narrowband network switch includes:

means for determining whether a first traffic call received in the narrowband network switch is destined for a node that has only narrowband capabilities, or is destined for a node that has broadband capabilities;

means, responsive to a determination that the first traffic call is destined for a node that has only narrowband capabilities, for controlling the narrowband connection control functionality in the narrowband network switch to route the first traffic call to the narrowband destination node, and

means, responsive to a determination that the first traffic call is destined for a node that has broadband capabilities, for controlling the broadband connection control functionality in the broadband network switch to route the first traffic call to the broadband destination node.

~~wherein, when a first traffic call, destined for a node that has only narrowband capabilities, is received in the narrowband network switch, the switching intelligence in the narrowband network switch utilizes the narrowband switching fabric to route the first traffic call to the narrowband destination node, and~~

~~wherein, when a second traffic call, destined for a node that has broadband capabilities, is received in the narrowband network switch, the switching intelligence in the narrowband network switch utilizes the broadband switching fabric in the broadband network switch to route the second traffic call to the broadband destination node.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein when a third traffic call, destined for a node that has broadband capabilities, is received in the broadband network switch, the broadband network switch utilizes the broadband ~~switching fabric~~ connection control functionality to route the third traffic call to the destination.

3. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 2, wherein the third traffic call is serviced by at least one telecommunications feature via said narrowband network switch.

4. (Currently Amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said broadband network switch relies on the ~~switching intelligence~~ call control functionality of said narrowband network switch.

5. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said narrowband network switch includes a synchronous transfer mode (STM) switch, and said broadband network switch includes an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch.

6. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 1, further comprising at least one circuit emulator, said at least one circuit emulator adapted to enable said broadband network switch to emulate a circuit with respect to said narrowband network switch.

7. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein said broadband network switch is adapted to emulate a circuit connection for the outgoing side of the second traffic call at said broadband network switch.

8-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for~~ of enabling a migration of a narrowband network to a broadband transport mechanism, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

connecting a first network switch having call control functionality and narrowband connection control functionality to a second network switch having only broadband connection control functionality;

receiving, at the first network switch, a first traffic call in a first format;

determining by the call control functionality in the first network switch whether the first format is a narrowband format or a broadband format;

upon determining that the first format is a narrowband format[.];

forwarding by the call control functionality in the first network switch, the first traffic call to a first destination node using the narrowband connection control functionality in the first network switch; and

using the call control functionality in the first network switch to control the narrowband connection control functionality in the first network switch to route the first traffic call to a first destination node; and

upon determining that the first format is a broadband format[.];

~~routing the first traffic call to the second network switch; and~~

~~forwarding the first traffic call to a second destination node using the broadband connection control functionality in the second network switch~~

forwarding by the call control functionality in the first network switch, the first traffic call to the broadband connection control functionality in the second network switch; and

using the call control functionality in the first network switch to control the broadband connection control functionality in the second network switch to route the first traffic call to a second destination node.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the first network switch includes a synchronous transfer mode (STM) switch, and the second network switch includes an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switch; and wherein the first network switch is directly connected to the second network switch.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the second network switch, a second traffic call in a second format;

routing the second traffic call from the second network switch to the first network switch;

providing a telecommunications service for the second traffic call by the call control functionality in the first network switch; and

routing the second traffic call from the first network switch back to the second network switch.

22-40. (Canceled)